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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 31 | Min 16 | Humidity 35% Partly cloudy. Misty morning Sensex 57,200 | Nifty 17,101 | Gold 47,584 | Silver 61,326 | Dollar 75.00 | Euro 83.67 | GBP 100.59

How animal activists helped 50-year-old homeless woman hold on to her makeshift shelter in south Bengaluru

STRAYIN' ALIVE

Cops almost evict squatter feeding 30-odd strays

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A single woman in her early fifties — sole caretaker and feeder of around 30 stray dogs near Srinagar bus stop in Banashankari 1st Stage — was almost forcefully evicted from her place of stay in a rundown building along the footpath by the local police.

BBMP assistant engineer (AE) who raised the complaint said the municipality was involved at the behest of local residents who complained about the squatter in question.

Soon, a group of animal lovers in the area turned up at the Hanumanthanagar police station on Thursday in support of Lalithamma Reddy.

Fifty-year-old Lalithamma Reddy was seen squatting on the footpath when police officials arrived to relocate her from her place of stay at a dilapidated BBMP structure along the footpath on the service road near Srinagar bus stop.

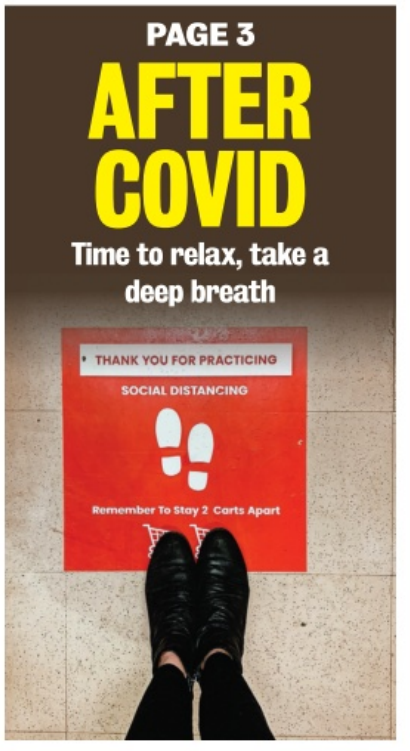
"For the past 10 years, Lalithamma along with another woman friend of hers, have been taking care of 30-odd stray dogs in and around the area — regularly feeding the canines with whatever the duo earn for the day. Both women are engaged in scrap business — buying old kitchen vessels, household items, and old newspapers, and were staying at two of the BBMP's dilapidated shops on the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"Lalithamma (inset) stood her ground and told police that she was not going to move as 30-odd dogs including puppies are dependent on her for food. — Vanaja, animal activist

PAGE 2
VARIANT WORRIES
Truth about the new variant

PAGE 3
AFTER COVID
Time to relax, take a deep breath



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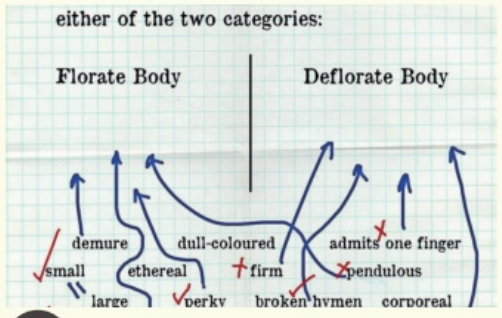
3 THINGS TO DO

01 Therapy In Theatre

Ranga Shankara presents 'Therapy In Theatre'. Child psychiatrist, artist, and musician Dr Shekhar P Seshadri specializes in childhood trauma, gender, and sexuality issues, and life skill education. This session will be covering the basis and techniques of experiential pedagogies, a discussion on the use of films and theatre in the development, therapy, and training of childcare service providers, along with the demonstration of some theatre techniques. **Where: Ranga Shankara foyer; When: Jan 30, 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm Entry: Free**



02 All about a woman's body

KathaSiyah, a theatre collective, is presenting 'The Amazing Flabby-Breasted Virgin & Other Sordid Tales' - a digital show - a performative archive on an interactive website. This is a playful, irreverent digital performance. This performance is part of an educational arts project on systemic issues in both medicine and education today. It plays with the myths and magical thinking that surround and define the non-masculine, non-heterosexual body. Inspired by the writings of a contemporary Indian feminist gynaecologist, it poses surreal and satirical questions about how women's bodies are taught, perceived and practiced within medical education in the urban Indian context.
Where: Online; When: Feb 4 – 13, multiple slots Tickets: insider.in

03 Shopping spree

Indulge yourself with this special online sale and give your wardrobe and home a makeover. Products include apparel (men's wear, ladies' wear and kids' wear) stoles, dupattas in various materials including chiffon, cotton and silk, jewellery of all kinds including silver, silk and Kanchi cotton saris, home décor products, Channapatna toys, pooja essentials and brass items. The proceeds will help girls' education in several non-profit schools across India.
Where: madhurya.com; When: Till Jan 31 Contact: 7019138680/ 9886051512

New variant? Don't panic, say doctors

Health experts and scientists say 'NeoCov' needs a lot more studying; it's not yet time to ring the alarm bells

BBMP health workers collect swab samples from travellers at Majestic Bus Stand on Saturday

With reports emerging of a new lethal variant called 'NeoCov' that requires only one mutation to infiltrate human cells, doctors on Saturday advised people not to panic. NeoCoV has been discovered by scientists from the Wuhan University in China in a bat population in South Africa. While it has only been known to spread among these animals to date, the variant has shown the potential to penetrate human cells in the same way as the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

"Currently, there is no direct evidence that NeoCov affects the human body, and we should not panic or get stressed," Dr Rahul Pandit, Member of National and Maharashtra's Covid-19 Taskforce. "There are many viruses in the world that are yet to be discovered and whose characteristics are not known.

I advise people not to panic, keep their guard up and follow Covid-19 appropriate protocols," added Pandit, who is also Director-Critical Care, Fortis Hospitals Mumbai.

According to the research on NeoCov, posted on preprint and not been peer-reviewed yet, the variant carries the combination of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS)-CoV mortality rate (where one in every three infected persons may die) and the current SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus' high transmission rate. "It is only one mutation away from becoming dangerous for humans," the researchers said.

"Currently, there is no direct evidence that NeoCov affects the human body, and we should not get stressed – Dr Rahul Pandit, National and Maharashtra's Covid-19 Taskforce

But, Dr Dhiren Gupta from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi stated that the variant's transmission to humans is still a "scientific speculation" and "hypothesis". "This NeoCov is very different from SARS-CoV virus (sarbecovirus) and belongs to merbecovirus which is a different genus. "It cannot infect human ACE2 (scientists are speculating if it can combine with SARS and start affecting humans). This is a hypothesis raised by scientists (which is not unusual in science)," Gupta said. He added that the theory that "one out of three may die is just an hypothesis, which social media made headlines". "It's just a hypothesis turning into sensationalist doomsday predictions," Gupta said. Even the World Health Organization (WHO) has said that the question of whether the NeoCov coronavirus poses a threat to humans, requires further study.

"Whether the virus detected in the study will pose a risk for humans will require further study," the health body was quoted as saying to TASS news agency. **– IANS**

Omicron, not Delta, is the dominant variant

It is official that Omicron is behind the third wave surge in Karnataka, with Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar sharing the genome sequencing data (till Thursday) in the state.
The Minister said that the Omicron variant is more dominant in the ongoing third wave of Covid-19 with 67.5 per cent of the samples testing positive for the variant. The statistics clearly shows that Delta variant of Covid -19 has become less dominant which is now replaced by the Omicron variant of the virus as against the second wave in the country when the former variant was more dominant over the others.
On the contrary, the Delta variant, which was more dominant during the second wave with a 90.7 per cent positivity rate of the sample, has now become less dominant with a 26 per cent positivity rate.
"As per the genome sequencing sample, the following are the dominant strains: Second wave: 90.7 per cent Delta variant, Third-wave: 67.5 per cent Omicron variant and 26 per cent Delta variant of coronavirus," Sudhakar tweeted.

Vitamins are the latest rage, courtesy covid

Multivitamin tablet sales hit the roof with more and more people self-medicating

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With self-medication turning out to be a preferred choice for many patients, pharmacists say that the demand for Vitamin tablets has gone up.

"Handy sanitisers, Vitamin A and Vitamin C tablets have started selling quite frequently again. During the peak of the second wave, almost three to four boxes of Vitamin C capsules were used to sell out per day. The purchases dropped significantly after July, however, from the last few days one box per day has again started selling out again." said Sameer Mir of Sams Pharma Store. He added that there were many covid-testing centres

nearby and people who might be doubly vaccinated or have negative RT-PCR reports also come and buy multivitamins just to be safe."

According to Raghu P of Sujata Medicals, the rise in sales of such products is also due to the recent re-opening of multiple schools and colleges. Young adults come and ask for specific vitamin tablets like multivitamin Zyncovi and C-plus tablets." The sales increased by 22 per cent in May, owing to Covid-19 and the current purchases could show a similar rise if the consumer patterns remain the same, he said.

However, there are side effects to this. Overconsumption of multivitamins could cause headaches, liver damage, weaker bones, and birth defects.

Krishnamurthy K, a doctor, said: "I would strongly suggest people to stop self-medication or take tablets without a doctor's prescription. We have seen in the last two waves as to how many people have developed other infections because of self-medication."

No more night watch

State government to withdraw night curfew and other restrictions as number of cases declines

BBMP marshals advice public to wear masks properly when outside. Pic was taken in Bengaluru on Saturday

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It is seen that life in Bengaluru is quickly moving back to the pace, habits and styles of the times before the third wave. With the number of Covid cases declining, the state government has decided to withdraw further restrictions and re-open schools in the city.

After a Covid technical advisory committee meeting, which was chaired by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Revenue Minister R Ashoka said, "The recovery rate is high and there is a drop in active cases. Currently, the rate of hospitalisation has reduced to two per cent. Considering these things, the following decisions have been made at the meeting with the experts: It has been decided to call off the night curfew in Bengaluru, January 31 onwards; schools and colleges in the city will reopen; Metro, rail and other public transport systems can operate with full seating capacity; the 50 per cent limit on seating capacity in bars, pubs, clubs, restaurants and hotels will be withdrawn. However, the 50 per cent limit will continue for cinema halls, multiplexes, theatres and auditoriums."

Further, he said: Gatherings for marriages will be limited to 300 guests in open spaces and 200 in closed premises. The 50 pc limit on attendance in government offices has been cancelled and they can function with the full staff. Services at religious places will be allowed with an entry limit of 50 per cent. No permission will be granted for any social, religious and political rallies, dharnas, conventions and protests. Swimming pools and gyms will be allowed to operate with the 50 per cent limit.

Sports complexes and stadiums could hold events with 50 pc capacity audiences. However, strict vigil at borders with Kerala, Maharashtra and Goa will continue. A decision has been made to reserve 25 per cent beds in private hospitals for the treatment of Covid patients.

Bangalore Mirror
Marshals in the city fine citizens for not wearing masks or flouting covid protocols
B'luru's cases dropping slowly
Bengaluru now has only 46 per cent of the state's

BM's report on January 26

Covid deaths increasing in number

Although the number of Covid cases in the state is reducing, the number of deaths is increasing slowly. On Saturday, 70 people died due to covid in the state, which is said to be the highest death toll in a single day since the beginning of the third wave. Bengaluru also recorded its highest single-day death tally with 13 succumbing to the virus. Except in Bidar, Davanagere, Koppal and Yadgir, deaths were reported in all other districts. Among the deceased, a nine-month-old baby died due to Covid in Vijayapura district after staying in the hospital for eight days. A 93-year-old man with fever, cough and breathlessness was the oldest victim of the day.Meanwhile, the state reported 33,337 fresh Covid cases on Saturday, of which Bengaluru reported 16,586. On the other hand, 69,902 people were discharged from treatment. Bengaluru alone reported 46,000 discharges.

Drugs worth Rs 3 crore seized, 2 held

BENGALURU

The police has seized drugs worth Rs 3 crore and arrested two Nigerian nationals, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), East, said on Saturday. The seizure includes 15 kgs of MDMA crystal, 120 gms of MDMA block, 16.5 kgs of MDMA mixed water, 300 gms of weed oil and a car, the DCP said.

As per the official, the accused were identified as Sixtus Uchec (30) and Chukwudbem Henry (34). Both are residents of Horamavu.After receiving credible information regarding the selling of drugs to celebrities, students and businessmen within their limits, the Govind Pura police arrested the accused and a registered a case under sections 8 (C), 22 (C) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, the DCP added. – ANI

Sandalwood producer arrested for rape

Police arrested Kannada film producer and actor Vijaya Bhargav for charges of rape, on Saturday.The complainant, a co-actor, stated that after promising marriage, he exploited her sexually for two years.

When she insisted on marriage, he threatened her with consequences. She lodged a complaint with the Annapoorneshwari Police Station. The police lodged a complaint under IPC sections 417 (cheating), 376 (rape), 504 (intentional insult and provocation), 506 (criminal intimidation) and has collected digital, material and physical evidence.

The victim has been subjected to a medical test. The accused is in judicial custody. Further investigation is underway. – IANS

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R K SWAMY BBDO 2201015

Viral: Traffic cop assaults woman

Traffic policeman grabs differently abled woman by her hair, abuses her on JC Road; shocking video goes viral

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

An assistant sub-inspector of the traffic police was caught on camera while assaulting and abusing a differently abled woman on JC Road after she hurled a stone at the police towing vehicle he was seated in.

The stone reportedly hit his head. The viral video shows those passing by trying to intervene as the policeman continues to kick the woman, grab her by her hair and assault her on the busy road.

The police officer was identified as R Narayana, attached to the Halasuru Gate Traffic Police Station. He was towing vehicles parked in the no parking zone, the police said. The incident occurred three days ago and has become a matter for public outrage against police highhandedness. Many netizens have trolled the policeman and sought action against his use of force and expletives used against the woman.

According to the police, the woman, Manjula alias Manjamma (37), works as a parking lot attendant at a service road off JC Road, near My Sugar, a government entity close to B Osman Road.

The police said that she lives at a makeshift shelter nearby and used to survive by money offered by people who parked their vehicles on the service road. According to the traffic police, the stretch of road is clearly a no-parking zone and whenever she sees a towing vehicle, she hurls stones at them, said the police, adding that this is not the first time she was throwing stones at the towing vehicle.

The video of the traffic policeman assaulting and abusing the woman on JC Road has gone viral

She threw a stone at the vehicle but hit him. The parking attendant lives in a makeshift shelter and makes a living with money from those parking there. It is said, she picks fights with officers in towing vehicles often

Soon after the incident, the woman was taken in a patrolling vehicle to the SJ Park Police Station, where she was booked for assaulting a policeman on duty and remanded into judicial custody.

The incident occurred when the officer was towing vehicles that violated parking norms in the city. While the vehicle was moving on the service road, Manjula hurled stones at the vehicle in a fit of rage, and one of them hit the officer on his head. In the video, Narayana is seen pushing the woman to the ground. He told his colleagues to call the Hoysala patrol to bundle her to the police station.

It is said that Narayana continued to kick and beat her until the patrol car reached the spot. In his complaint, Narayana claimed that he had a narrow escape as his eye could have been damaged by the stone.

Dog mother of Banashankari

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

service road," said Vanaja, local animal activist.

On Thursday morning, police showed up before Lalithamma's shop and asked her to accompany them to the police station as there was a complaint lodged by the local BBMP assistant engineer who alleged that Lalithamma has been staying and living illegally in the BBMP property along the footpath and that she should be evicted from the place and given shelter at a rehabilitation centre for the homeless.

"As soon as the cops showed up, Lalithamma stood her ground, and told them that she was not going to move anywhere as 30-odd dogs including puppies are dependent on her for food and the complaint raised by the BBMP's AE was based on a few residents who did not like the stray dogs in the area," Vanaja added.

Vanaja, too, meanwhile, reasoned with the cops that if that was the case, there were several homeless individuals in and around the City Market area who feed dogs, and they too shall be provided shelter like Lalithamma.

Animal activists who had gathered in Lalithamma support rang up the BBMP joint commissioner and reported the matter while another animal activist informed Maneka Gandhi, member of parliament and prominent animal activist, about the development. The MP herself called up the police station and instructed the policemen to inform their superiors about the incident before taking any action. The cops informed their seniors who rushed to the spot and told Lalithamma that there is no harm in feeding the stray dogs and she could continue to do so, but she cannot stay at the place as the shops are the property of the BBMP. "She could come by the day and work at her shop; feed the strays, but she has to get back to a shelter for the night provided by the government for her own safety and wellbeing," said BBMP assistant engineer Ramesh.

Lalithamma told everyone that she has been living at the same spot along the footpath over the past 10 years and there have not been any issues till date; she wondered why the authorities were interested in her well-being all of a sudden now. She was later escorted by the police to her place of stay, along with the activists who supported her.

Chief Minister pursues 'Grama One' with full force

Bommai instructs officials to take steps to extend programme to the entire state before end of February

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Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has instructed officials to take all necessary measures to extend his programme Grama One to the entire state before February ends. The programme was launched by the chief minister on January 26.

He has written to the officials of e-governance, RDPR and revenue department, and the deputy commissioners of all districts in this regard.

He has said that he will hold weekly meetings to review the progress of its implementation with Grama One Operators, Tahsildars and deputy commissioners.

File photo of panchayat election

Speedy disposal of petitions

The chief minister has instructed the speedy disposal of petitions received at Grama One. Officials will have to mention reasons for rejecting petitions submitted by citizens, deputy commissioners and senior officials must review rejected petitions and disciplinary action will be taken against those who reject it erroneously.

Code of conduct

Deputy commissioners have been instructed to ensure that a code of conduct for Grama One Operators is issued from the e-governance department and compulsorily followed. Training must be imparted to operators on technical, administrative and legal issues that are involved, Bommai has said. He has also instructed periodic training for operators to examine and upgrade skills. The Additional Chief Secretary of e-governance department has been instructed to ensure convening of weekly meetings for the next two months.

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No ends to this

Shivajinagar

Bamboo Bazaar is covered in a shroud of dust. The authorities concerned have been taking up works here for years now, endlessly.

Cheap flex

Vasanth Nagar

Folks have been plastering these quarters on Crescent Road with promotional posters and banners without permissions from BBMP.

Conserve energy

Queens Road

Streetlights were seen switched on in broad day light on this road

Why gated townships are top picks these days

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

They have open spaces, security, solidarity and more -- then is there a wonder that gated township projects are ruling the real estate roost today? As per a report by a management consulting firm, households in gated communities in India will amount to over 30 million by 2031. That these townships are becoming the IT thing in real estate is evident. Ahana Kumar, resident of a gated township, said that such communities have plenty to offer.

"I have been living in a gated community for over a decade now. Overall I find the safety and convenience aspects of it to be the top perks," she says. According to Ronal Badekar, a real estate agent, these are the purposes that have been driving growth in the segment. He divulges that his firm has been receiving up to 40 requests a day for houses in gated communities. He feels covid too has played a huge role in urging people in this direction. We delve into the top reasons that gated townships are favoured:

OPTIMUM SECURITY

For Kumar, the numerous security guards keeping watch over who is entering and leaving the society is a comfort. "I have two kids and I appreciate that when they go outside to play I don't have to worry much because societies have plenty of guards who ensure that the kids stay inside the premises," she shares Additionally many gated townships have stringent protocols for visitors. From urging them to create entry passes to noting down their vehicle numbers and calling residents to ensure that the visitor is known.

LARGER SPACES

Covid made people long for open spaces outside and inside. After having held up at home for two years, people are yearning to get out freely and frequently. Gated township enables that. Bhadekar notes that gated township often come with huge gardens, cycling or jogging tracks and other such spaces that are easily accessible to residents. In fact these townships offer bigger homes,too. "Interest rates have fallen quite low during the pandemic. That's why,for buyers , this is a perfect opportunity to purchase a new home. Almost everyone is looking for a bigger home. They want more space," he expounds. With bigger homes people are able to create separate homes for work and play which is specially useful for families with kids.

CONVENIENCE AT THE CORE

During the pandemic while stores closed and people scrambled to stock up the townships helped avoid any panicked buying as most have stores within them. From groceries to pharmacies, banks and more — many gated townships comprise almost all the essentials. This way, people don't have to rely on outside shops or worry about sudden close closures. "If I ever needed something urgently during the lockdown I would just call a society grocer and ask him to deliver the items. We even have a beauty salon and eatery within. It is like living in a city of our own," quips Jaya Sawant, a category executive at an ecommerce store.

In gated communities everything is convenient and within reach making it a perfect preferred choice for prospective home buyers looking for an all inclusive residence. The pandemic has made people crave for physical space and a sense of belongingness. Gated townships provide both, thus making them ideal for home buyers.

THE SUNDAY READ

Monkey about town

Activists shocked by Forest Dept plan to shift out 60 monkeys who are destroying 'expensive items' in residential area

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Animal activists are up-in-arms against an order passed by the State Forest Department to translocate a cluster of around 60 monkeys - all Bonnet Macaques from a residential locality in Vidyaranyapura. The order comes after a complaint from one Shashank Aikhya Resident Welfare Association on the Ambabhavani Temple Road and a recommendation from the BBMP Forest Cell.

The complaint office to the Deputy Conservator of Forests at the Bangalore Urban Division in Aranya Bhavan Campus in January this year states that these monkeys are becoming a regular nuisance in the area and are even indulging in destruction of the residents' "expensive items".

Based on their complaint, the Forest Department is said to have passed an order to translocate this group of Bonnet Macaques in a 'scientific way' as mentioned in the guidelines according to the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, but these officials who passed the order are themselves unaware of wildlife conservation measures, say wildlife activists.

Relocating wildlife is illegal according to the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, but these laws are being flexed and conveniently changed according to what a group of citizens want in the city, says Arun Prasad, a wildlife activist.

According to an official memorandum by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), the BBMP (Forest Cell) has been assisting the public and Forest Department in handling man-animal conflict issues in the limits of BBMP for a long time, and hence an order was passed revising the proposal that was submitted to the government for delegation of powers vested with the Forest Department under section 5(2) of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, for further authorising the BBMP Forest Cell officials to rescue and translocate snakes, monkeys, to an alternate suitable habit within the limits of BBMP," the order states.

But, it is never done within the BBMP limits and the monkeys are being translocated to the forested outskirts around the city where they would encounter territorial disputes and harm each other of their own species, pointed out animal activists.

"This is similar to the garbage problem in Bengaluru. People staying near areas where the garbage is being dumped have a problem with it while the place it has been cleared from claims it is garbage free. These so-called Forest Department officials and the BBMP Forest Cell members both have no idea what wildlife conservation is, evident by the decisions they take on such complaints," Prasad said.

They just deal with problems and disputes whenever they arise in an ad-hoc manner and do not consider wildlife conservation, he said. "This is evident with the fact that no measures of awareness are conducted that with the people feeding the monkeys home cooked food and snacks the entire lot of monkeys living in urban areas have adapted, and that people are also responsible for this menace. There is no awareness created to prevent monkeys from accessing one's private space by putting up a mesh preventing the monkeys from entering," Prasad said.

But often, residents keep complaining that the monkeys sneak into their houses, steal food, meddle with water taps and water connections on the apartment terraces, or even change directions of the dish antennas, sometimes steal clothes put out to dry causing nuisance, and so a "unanimous decision is taken to translocate the entire group of monkeys". Some residents worship monkeys and are sympathetic with them and so the monkeys are attracted to such crowds looking for their favourite food, he added.

Instead of translocating or relocating wildlife such as macaques, the forest department officials should spend more energy, efforts and funds into spreading awareness as to how to coexist living with the urban wildlife safe and sound, an animal activist said. "Monkeys are territorial. Urban monkeys are used to city life so the forest department must initiate public awareness drives in cities to conserve urban wildlife and mitigate man animal conflicts by sanctioning funds for urban wildlife conservation awareness drives through forest department staff and wildlife NGOs. In view of the spread of Zoonotic diseases and Territorial Conflicts among wildlife species, shifting of urban wildlife to forests should be strictly avoided by the forest department and all orders issued for relocating urban monkeys must be immediately canceled by the Chief Wildlife Warden," Arun Prasad told Bangalore Mirror.

The activists also demanded that the Forest Department and the BBMP forest officials work more in the way of spreading awareness rather than taking the easier way out by making decisions to relocate or translocate wildlife from one place to another.

Bangalore Mirror
GETTING WELL SOON
DANGER ZONES ON AIRPORT ROAD
MONKEY SEE MONKEY DO
Relocating wildlife is against law
Turf wars: It's man v/s monkey in Basavanagudi
Bot a scarecrow to shoo away animals

BM has earlier too reported about the issues surrounding man-monkey battles in the city

"The forest department must initiate public awareness drives in cities to conserve urban wildlife and mitigate man-animal conflicts

–Arun Prasad, wildlife activist

Oh, deer!

Injured spotted deer rescued in the nick of time at Hoskote is recovering well, docs say

Bellie Thomas@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A wildlife rescue, done in the nick of time has given a two-and-half-year-old spotted deer a shot at life. The deer was found lying motionless in front of a house in Jadigenahalli, Hoskote, 62 km from Bengaluru, on Thursday.

The residents of the house did not know what to do, it is said. They assumed the deer would get better in some time and run back into the forest after it is fed and had some water, but the deer did not recover.

It is said that the neighbours informed the forest department officials. The deer was carefully moved to a nearby nursery in Jagadenahalli, where it was administered first aid by vets, who diagnosed it with a spine and thoracic rib fractures. As the facilities were limited there, the local vet, along with the forest department officials, informed the vets at People for Animals Hospital, off Uttarahalli Main Road. A wildlife rescue team brought the deer to the city for treatment.

"It was a professional rescue. The deer's eyes were blindfolded and its body was covered with clothes soaked with water to make its metabolic rate and temperature normal, and to avoid syncopal shocks which usually occur to sensitive wild animals. Sometimes, these syncopal shocks could easily lead to death due to shock. The deer was safely shifted to the veterinary hospital where x-rays were performed," chief veterinarian and surgeon Colonel Dr Navaz Sharif said.

Veterinarians at the hospital observed that the nature of the injuries could not have necessarily been caused by a hit from a vehicle, but was perhaps caused due to a fall the animal would have suffered after jumping from a height to a hard surface.

After treatnent, the deer named Dhruv is progressing well and the vets are keeping their fingers crossed that it does not require surgical intervention.

3 mistakes of CBSE term-2 exams

By avoiding them, students will be able to make optimum use of time

Students in Class 10 are in a state of confusion right now. They have appeared for their first terminal examination and are looking forward to preparing for the CBSE Class 10, 12 Term 2 examinations 2022. But, due to lack of knowledge, they make such mistakes, which put them at the back.

If you are a Class 10 student, you might be looking out for the best strategies to prepare. By avoiding these mistakes in CBSE Class 10, 12 Term 2, you will be able to make the most of your time, and that will be helpful in achieving your goals as well. Let's have a look at the mistakes students commonly make!

Top 3 mistakes to avoid while preparing for CBSE Class 10, 12 Term 2 Exams 2022:

Don't make an over-equipped timetable

Preparing a timetable is good, but over-equipping the same is not advisable. In some cases, it happens that students make such mistakes when they try to shift or change their schedule overnight. But this is not possible at all. If you are a night owl and wake up late in the morning, be on the same schedule and try to shift it in small steps only. This will not only make you productive, but also help you achieve the task you have set. Also, when you prepare the timetable, make sure to include a time slot where you can relax without any stress. We suggest you follow the timetable as you are currently doing because 5-6 hours of study is enough with attention instead of 12 hours of studying, where you are not even attentive.

Don't occupy your place with excessive resources

You might probably be thinking that we are saying there will be no need for you to purchase the books. Instead, we recommend that you only obtain resources that will assist you in making the most of your curriculum. According to CBSE, NCERT is the best book you can consider for preparation. But, students still do not feel satisfied. You can simply look for some renowned publishers and their examples and solutions. This will not only save you from spending an unnecessary amount on books but also help you focus on the quality of the content. Take it this way: the more books you purchase, the more confused you will be. To keep yourself in a subtle state, take only those books that have quality content and will help you resolve all your doubts.

Don't consider the syllabus as havoc

Some students have the habit of considering their syllabus as a havoc. But in reality, it is not. You have got sufficient time to prepare for it, and it is important that you follow the schedule properly. If you visit YouTube, you will see there are a lot of videos available where content creators mention the tricks of reducing the syllabus. But, this is not the right way. You never know when CBSE comes up with new guidelines and you need to prepare for the entire syllabus. Therefore, look at the mark distribution mentioned in the sample paper and prepare accordingly. So, you can download it from online portals and start preparing accordingly. If you feel that there is a particular topic you are weak at, but there are some topics on which you are good, prepare those good topics first to score well.

3 out of 4 workers not equipped with digital skills

Despite so much buzz around digital transformation amid the pandemic, nearly three out of four people from the current and prospective workforce from 19 countries (including India) say they aren't equipped with the resources needed to learn the digital skills.

The 'Global Digital Skills Index' research from American Cloud-based software firm Salesforce has revealed a growing global digital skills crisis and the urgent need for action.

Across 19 countries, workers scored 33 out of a possible 100 points on the 'Digital Skills Readiness Index' across areas such as preparedness, access to learning resources, skill level, and participation in training.

Workers in the US fared slightly better at 36 out of 100 points. The vast majority of respondents (83 per cent) claim "advanced" or "intermediate" everyday social media skills and 76 per cent say the same for everyday digital communication skills.

However, only one-third feel prepared for the workplace social media skills needed over the next five years, said the report that came out late on Thursday.

Two-thirds of respondents say they're unprepared for social media skills that the workplace will require over the next five years.

Over 6 in 10 global respondents say skills in collaboration technology like Slack are viewed as the most important skills needed by businesses today and over the next five years.

Only 31 per cent of Gen Z respondents, the first truly digital native generation, feel "very equipped" for a digital-first job right now.

Not many Gen Z respondents believe they have "advanced" digital skills in areas like coding (20 per cent), data encryption and cybersecurity (18 per cent) and AI (7 per cent), the findings showed.

When it comes to digital skills readiness and education, senior leadership and their workforce aren't on the same page.

A majority of senior leadership respondents (54 per cent) said they are prepared with the digital skills necessary now.

"However, less than half of managers and individual contributors agree, signalling a disconnect within organisations," the report mentioned.

It's a common assumption that developed countries and younger generations feel more prepared for the digital skills demanded by today's jobs.

"But these findings challenge those assumptions. In fact, many respondents say they feel unequipped and unprepared for some of the most important digital skills needed for the workplace," the report noted.

Younger generations have more confidence and ambition to learn skills they don't know as well.

Across the globe, 36 per cent of Gen Z and Millennials are "very actively" participating in learning and training, compared to only 22 per cent of Gen X and 15 per cent of Baby Boomers, said the report. —IANS

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

TOP OF THE WORLD

This picture is from Ballalarayana Durga. There are two routes to reach this peak. Ones who want to see heaven during the monsoon must visit this place. Everyone wants to live on the top of the mountain. but happiness and growth occurs while you are climbing it.

The picture was clicked by reader **MOHAN KUMAR N**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Pottery Town's roads are a residents' nightmare

Dug-up roads, potholes, Metro construction, never-ending dust, incomplete road work have made citizens' lives miserable

Shreyashi Mukherjee
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

For almost four years now, Pottery Town has been bearing the brunt of delayed road construction. The work began in 2018 when the metro project was started in the area -- which is not even close to completion, currently.

Since then, the residents of Pottery Town have only witnessed dug-up roads and half-finished construction work.

The deplorable condition of the roads has aggravated the problems of the residents which in turn have left them infuriated. The road is filled with potholes and the metro workers always dump the debris collected from the ongoing metro project into the main road.

A resident in the area, on condition of anonymity, said: "The construction work has been going on for four years now. There seems to be no end to this. Big vehicles like cranes are always standing in the middle of the road. It causes a lot of problems while we are travelling. The condition of the road is far from improving. I see no workers finishing the work any time soon."

Due to the construction, the area is always dusty. People also dump waste on the road which makes the area even more unhygienic.

Lakshmi L, working as a household help in the area, said, "The dust from the road enters our house whenever we keep the windows open. Because of the waste littered, the place smells a lot. It is difficult to travel through this road because no auto comes here because of the poor road condition. I have to travel a long distance to reach my workplace."

In a state of limbo: The incomplete work has simply exacerbated the civic issues

The mud and the potholes make the stretch extremely dangerous for people commuting by two-wheelers.

Mutthu Shankar, a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) worker and a resident of the area, said: "The condition of the road is a little bad because of the ongoing metro work. Most of the work has been done so people should not face any more problems. Whatever work is left will be completed in the next week or so."

DID YOU KNOW?

From the late 20th century, Bengaluru became a centre of high-technology industry (notably ICT), and a number of large multinational technology corporations opened offices there. In addition, major domestic firms such as Infosys and Wipro established headquarters in the city. In 1998 an ICT park opened in what was then the suburb of Whitefield, about 10 miles (16 km) east of central Bengaluru. As a self-contained city with hundreds of technologies, software, and telecommunications companies, the park became known as the Silicon Valley of India. It became a district of Greater Bengaluru in 2007. The rapid growth of ICT-related activities in the area, however—encouraged by continued government subsidies—contributed to a decline in small- and medium-scale manufacturing industries there.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

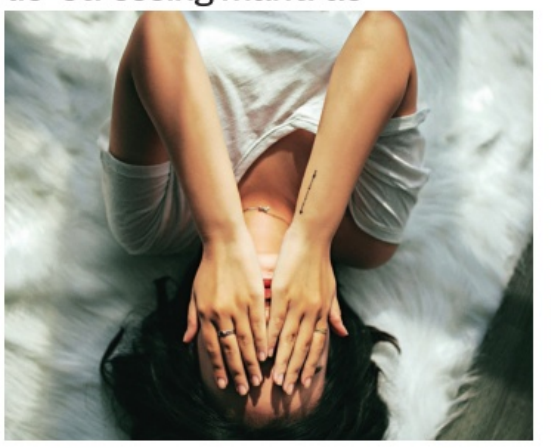
9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

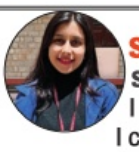
TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

How do you take a break from pandemic burnout? Tell us your de-stressing mantras



K L Subramanyam
BM Reader
The pandemic has exacerbated mental disorders like anxiety, depression. To keep fit mentally and physically, yoga is the best for destressing in such cases. Several asanas are there and I follow that.



Shreya BN
Second-year journalism student
I have control over how I feel, and I choose to feel at peace. I play outdoor games and go out often to chill out with my friends. Music also makes me feel relaxed at times.

Nitish Gowda
Second-year BCA student
I'm not yet out of the pandemic burnout, but I try going for a jog. Playing with my dog gets me back on my saddle. Sometimes, I try cooking something new. My only mantra for de-stressing is to not be stagnant, and keep the mind fresh.

Priyanka
Second-year commerce student
I binge-watch every week. Netflix has made my life easier during the pandemic. I can't even go out as these times and me being an introvert, I stay home all the time and enjoy working out at home.

Mahima S
Final-year biotech student
Meditation and yoga are the mantras for me to de-stress myself. I also dance and sing in my free time because that's what makes me happy.

SPEAK TO US

What have been your good or bad experiences with the Smart City work in Bengaluru?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Tax breather in Mysuru

City corporation decides to quash the special commercial slab affecting choultries, theatres, hotels

Prakash VL
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Lakshmi Theatre is one of the popular cinema halls that too fell under the special commercial tax slab

The Mysuru City Corporation decided to quash the "Super Commercial Tax " which has been drawing flak from the business community for more than a decade. Earlier, Mysuru City Corporation was imposing two types of commercial taxes – the regular commercial tax and super commercial tax. The super commercial tax was double the rate of commercial tax and was opposed by the business community. The commercial tax was Rs 1.36, the super commercial tax was Rs 2.28, and the residential tax is presently Rs 0.9 per square foot.

During the recent council meeting, it was decided to merge commercial and super commercial taxes into one. The new tax structure will be applicable in the next financial year. This will reduce the burden of double tax paying businesses in the city. This will reduce the burden of over 1,000 businesses that were considered super commercial. Their tax burden will be reduced to half. Mysuru City Corporation categorised the shops, hotels, choultries, theatres and other commercial establishments as commercial and super commercial in 2007. The choultries, theatres, hotel and lodges come under super commercial tax payers.

> **We want to help those who are paying commercial tax and contributing to the development of Mysuru city**
>
> –Sunanda Palanetra, Mayor

Mysuru Hotel Owners Association President Narayanagowda, "Under the KMC Act 1976, when imposing property tax only three categories as empty site, residential and commercial can be done. No other corporation has such super commercial tax. We have given memorandums to elected representatives many times to quash it. Now, it is welcome that they have accepted our demand of quashing the super commercial tax."

Mysuru City Corporation Mayor Sunanda Palanetra, said, "We tried to correct the error in collecting the commercial tax in the city businesses. We want to help those who are paying commercial tax and contributing to the development of the city. The new tax structure will be implemented after the approval of the council meeting."

Anand Mahindra welcomes farmer 'humiliated' at showroom into family

Gowda's quick action and vigour was appreciated by people all over Karnataka

Business tycoon and Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra has welcomed the Karnataka farmer, who faced humiliation at one of the company's SUV showrooms recently, into the Mahindra and Mahindra family.

"Let me add my welcome to Mr Kempe Gowda...," Anand Mahindra stated on Friday night.

After being humiliated by the showroom staff, the Bolero Pick-up vehicle was finally delivered to the farmer, Kempe Gowda, on January 28.

Company takes to Twitter

Mahindra Automotive reacted on Twitter saying, "We regret the inconvenience caused to Mr Kempe Gowda and his friends during their visit to our dealership on January 21. As promised, we have taken appropriate measures and the matter is now resolved. We would like to thank Mr Kempe Gowda for choosing to be with us and we welcome him into the Mahindra family."

A field officer had humiliated Kempe Gowda, saying that when the latter did not have even Rs 10, how would he purchase a vehicle.

Earlier, Anand Mahindra had taken to Twitter to make his stand clear with reference to the incident.

"The Core Purpose of @MahindraRise is to enable our communities & all stakeholders to Rise. And a key Core Value is to uphold the Dignity of the Individual. Any aberration from this philosophy will be addressed with great urgency," he had tweeted, quoting a tweet by Mahindra and Mahindra CEO Veejay Nakra.

> **After being humiliated by the showroom staff, the Bolero Pick-up vehicle was finally delivered to the farmer on January 28**

The Mahindra Automotive Company also stated on Twitter, "Dealers are the front face of our company. It is our responsibility to ensure that they behave in the most customer centric manner and ensure the dignity of all our customers. We will investigate the episode and if there is any transgression, we will take appropriate action which includes counselling and training of our frontline staff."

Judged on appearance

On January 21, Gowda, a farmer from Ramanapalya near Hebbur town in Karnataka, had taught the employees of the showroom a lesson as to never to judge a person by his clothes or appearance.

Gowda was insulted by the staff when he went to the showroom located in Tumakuru city to purchase a car. After being insulted, he arranged Rs 10 lakh in 30 minutes and demanded delivery on the same day.

The showroom staff had apologised for their mistake at a local police station. Gowda's quick action and vigour has been appreciated by people all over the state.

"I had gone to the Mahindra showroom to purchase a Bolero Pick Up goods vehicle along with my seven friends and uncle. But the company's field officer mocked me saying that when I am not carrying even Rs 10, how will I purchase such an expensive vehicle. The officer also said that no one comes to purchase a vehicle in a group," Gowda had said.

"My uncle asked him, if we bring money will he be able to deliver the vehicle. To which, the field officer challenged that if we managed to bring the money, he would deliver the vehicle immediately and he again challenged us to bring the money within half an hour," he said.

"I am an educated man. What will these people do to farmers from villages," he asked. — IANS

Cop convicted for raping woman in moving car

A local court in Tumakuru has found the area's Assistant Police Sub-Inspector guilty for allegedly raping a mentally challenged woman in a moving car. The court will pronounce the quantum of punishment on January 31.

Umeshaiah, the accused police officer, attached to Women's Police station had taken away the mentally challenged woman in a private vehicle on January 15, 2017 and raped her near Antarasanahalli Bridge near Tumakuru in a moving car.

The case had made headlines causing embarrassment to the police department. Since, the charges against him have been found to be true and have been proved, Second Additional District and Sessions Court Judge H S Mallikarjunaswamy has pronounced the accused guilty.

The parents of the mentally-challenged woman had lodged a complaint against the accused. Eshwar, the second accused in the case who drove the vehicle has been discharged of all charges.

The victim had left her home after a quarrel with family members at 7 pm. The cop on night duty with a home guard riding pillion spotted her at 11 pm. He signaled her to stop and questioned her. The accused asked her to board a private vehicle in the pretext of dropping her back. Later, the cop raped the victim and dropped her back at 3.30 am.

School head fired for kissing student

The headmaster who kissed a girl student in Kote town of Mysuru has been sacked. Headmaster RM Anilkumar was caught red-handed while kissing a student in his chamber. The management committee of the private school convened an emergency meeting and decided to sack the headmaster from the service.

The Education Department has lodged a case of sexual assault under Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against the headmaster, police said on Saturday. Block Education Officer Chandrakanth and Deputy Director of Public Instruction Ramachandre Urs, have also assured action against the accused teacher.

The action came after a video of the headmaster holding the girl student and kissing her in his chamber went viral on social media. The incident has also shocked the state and created outrage. As the video went viral, villagers and students demanded action against the accused headmaster. The video was shot by the students through the window.

Based on the complaints of villagers, the Block Education Officer (BEO) lodged a case of sexual assault against the headmaster and sought action. The conduct of the teacher has embarrassed the Education Department, the officer said.

The case has been registered at the HD Kote police station. The police have taken up the investigation.

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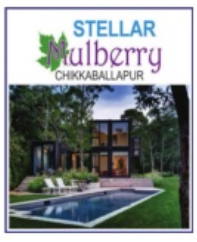

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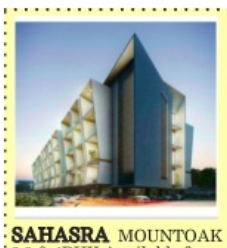

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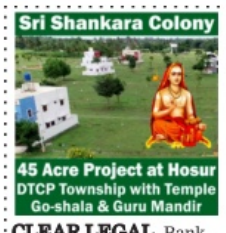

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I, MAHMUD GHANI MOHAMMED ZUMAIR, R/at #15, 3rd Main, Ganesha Block, Sultanpalya, Bangalore– 32. I Have changed my name to MOHAMMED ZUMAIR MAHMUD, Vide Affidavit Dated: 28/01/2022 Sworn before Notary: B.V. Nagabhushana Advocate, Bangalore

I, Ajay Kamble Residing at Flat No.233, Prestige Casabella, Chikkathogur Village, Begur, Electronic city Post, Bangalore-560100 have changed my minor daughter's name from ANAYA KAMLE to ANAYSHA KAMLE vide affidavit dated 29.01.2022 Sworn before notary: B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore

I, PINKEY TIWARE, W/o Aseem Dubey, R/o Flat #14098, Prestige Royale Gardens, Avalahalli, Bengaluru 560064, have changed my name as PINKY DUBEY, at Bengaluru.

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Dazzling show
Over 1,000 drones, dazzling in different colours, lit up the sky over Lutyens' Delhi on Saturday during the Beating Retreat ceremony

BangaloreMirror | 12
Sunday, January 30, 2022
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PM stresses on India-Israel ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said there cannot be a better time to set new goals for taking forward India-Israel relations and asserted that the importance of the relationship has increased amid significant changes in the world.

In a special video message on the completion of 30 years of full-fledged diplomatic relations between India and Israel, Modi said people of India and Israel have always shared a special relationship.

"This day holds importance in our relationship as full diplomatic ties were established between the two countries 30 years ago. A new chapter between the two countries had begun. It was a new chapter but history between us is age-old," he said.

"For centuries, the Jew community has stayed in India in a harmonious environment without any discrimination and has grown. It has made an important contribution in our development journey," Modi said. At a time when significant changes are taking place in the world, the importance of India-Israel ties has further increased, he asserted.

There cannot be a better opportunity than now for setting new goals for mutual cooperation when India is marking 75 years of its independence, Israel will mark 75 years of its independence next year and the two countries are marking 30 years of their diplomatic ties, Modi said. "On this important milestone of 30 years, I congratulate all. I am confident that India-Israel friendship will continue to set new records of mutual cooperation in the decades to come," he said. Though India had recognised Israel on September 17, 1950, full-fledged diplomatic relations between the countries were established on January 29, 1992. —PTI

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Report on Pegasus triggers row

Opposition accuses govt of snooping, BJP leader terms NYT 'supari media'

#New Delhi

A New York Times report claiming India bought Pegasus spyware as part of a USD 2 billion defence deal with Israel in 2017 triggered a major controversy on Saturday with the Opposition alleging that the government indulged in illegal snooping that amounted to "treason".

The Opposition parties indicated that they would raise the issue strongly in the Budget Session of Parliament starting Monday, even as Union minister Gen (retd) V K Singh called The New York Times "Supari Media".

A government source said the matter related to the Pegasus software was being monitored by a committee under the Supreme Court -- headed by retired Supreme Court judge R V Raveendran -- and its report was awaited.

Reacting to NYT's report, Singh, Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation, said on Twitter: "Can you trust NYT?? They are known "Supari Media"."

The Congress launched an all-out attack on the government over the report, accusing it of deceiving Parliament, duping the Supreme Court, hijacking democracy and indulging in treason.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter, "The Modi Government bought Pegasus to spy on our primary democratic institutions, politicians and public. Government functionaries, opposition leaders, armed forces, judiciary all were targeted by these phone tappings. This is treason."

"The Modi Government has committed treason," he alleged.

The Congress said it intends to raise the issue in the budget session and demand accountability from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP government on the floor of Parliament.

The principal opposition party also urged the Supreme Court to take suo motu cognisance of the matter and initiate appropriate penal proceedings against the government for attempting to "deliberately and knowingly deceive" it.

An activist of the Youth Congress (IYC) reacts after been detained by police personnel during a protest against alleged surveillance operation using the Israeli-built Pegasus spyware, in New Delhi on Saturday

'Matter being monitored by SC-panel'

A government source on Saturday said that the matter related to Pegasus software is being monitored by a committee under the Supreme Court and its report is awaited.

The source said that the inquiry committee -- set up under the supervision of retired Supreme Court judge R V Raveendran -- has also published a newspaper advertisement on January 2 calling for submission of phones by people who claim their devices were infected by Pegasus.

"Matter (is) already with the Supreme Court. The court has constituted a committee under the supervision of retired judge Raveendran. The committee's report (is) awaited," the source said. PTI

Asked about the issue, Shashi Tharoor, senior Congress leader and chairman of the parliamentary panel on communications and information technology, told PTI, "The government has chosen not to be responsive to the IT Committee about Pegasus, and the stand taken by a number of BJP members - not to permit a quorum when the issue was to be discussed - has also meant that the Committee has made no headway in establishing the facts."

"The Supreme Court is pursuing the matter and I wish it well. If our government has used Pegasus in the manner alleged it would be a very grave threat to our democracy," he said.

In a tweet, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said, "The (Narendra) Modi government must explain on affidavit why it bought this cyber weapon, who gave the permission for its usage, how were the targets selected and who got these reports?" PTI

What the middle-class wants: Jobs, tax breaks, health and education spend

UNION BUDGET 2022

As Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman gives final touches to the Budget in North Block, the image of a burning train has travelled across the world. The train was set on fire by aspirants to a railway job in three days of rioting over dozens of districts in Bihar. More than 10 million aspirants had signed up for 35,000 jobs with the railways, reports the BBC.

The annual budget must provide a basic policy structure to bring back 200 million missing jobs in the economy and assuage the middle-class which is hurting from the pandemic. Especially since India's middle-class also comprises Modi's core voter.

It must also, despite fiscal constraints, give tax breaks to the small, salaried part of India's middle-class who have the option of Work from Home or WFH. This section also wants a budget focussed on health and education, as it suffered medical costs in the second wave, and protracted school closures have added to uncertainty about what the future holds for their children.

Spend more; tax breaks

An ET survey on budget priorities had 40% respondents pushing for health and education to be the main focus of the budget; India's public health expenditure has increased from 0.9% of GDP in 2015-16 but was still a dismal 1.1% of GDP in 2020-21, reports PRS India. The Economic Survey 2020-21 observed that India ranks 17th among 189 countries in prioritizing healthcare in the government budget. Note that the National Health Policy, 2017 aims to increase public health expenditure to 2.5% of the GDP by 2025.

The pandemic has hit the middle-class with dwindling income and low job prospects. So, measures announced by the government on the tax front since 2014 – increasing the basic exemption limit, increasing 80C deduction, introducing standard deduction, and introducing optional tax slab rates – mean little in the post-Covid world.

"Due to the pandemic, these (tax measures) have only helped in a limited manner to the middle class and therefore there seems not much improvement in their economic situation," said Rahul Garg, Partner, Price Waterhouse & Co LLP. "The government should bring a special regime for salaried employees working from home. Deductions should be given for an increase in medical costs. The new optional lower tax-slab scheme should be made simpler," he added.

The Working Class

The Indian middle-class, already small in number, is also becoming smaller as more people slip into poverty due to the pandemic.

Jobs, and welfare schemes aimed at the lower-middle-class or working class, are the answer. But economists say the budget will be hard-pressed to come up with ready-made solutions. — Anand JC, ET Online

HEALTH TIP: Too much caffeine and experiencing caffeine withdrawal can cause migraine or headaches

Pistachios are packed with healthy protein, fats and rich in fibre, making them ideal for diabetics

BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am a mother of a 12-year-old boy who has recently reached puberty. Luckily, he is very close to me and shares all his private and secret talks with me. For some reason, he does not feel very comfortable discussing about his private affairs with his dad. He has also started masturbating and my husband and I have explained to him that overdoing it is not good. But he tells me that he feels like doing it almost every day. He has told me that he uses soap for lubrication which has possibly led to a peculiar discomfort that he experiences while urinating after masturbation. I want to know if we should take him to a doctor who can talk to him and explain things to him in a better way? Can I tell him to use coconut oil or any other lubricant instead of soap or will it sound that I am encouraging him to do it more? I don't want him to get hooked on to the habit. What will encourage him to reduce the frequency of masturbating?

Kudos to you and your husband for taking such a positive step. It will instill your son with loads of confidence. I would suggest that you take him to a sex educator who will educate him further and guide him. You may contact Niyatti Shah or Dilnavaz Munshi from Mumbai. They both are renowned well-trained sex educators and counselors. Regarding the issue, you may ask him to use either KY gel or his own saliva as a lubricant – both will be equally effective. Tell him that it is normal to masturbate; it is common amongst all males but it needs to be regulated, anything in excess is harmful. To help him reduce the frequency of this activity it is important for him tokeep himself busy by involving himself in academics, physical and mental activities such as outdoor and indoor games.

MEET THE SEXPERTS
Use this QR code to send your questions to us

STRAWBERRY SEASON

Use this versatile ingredient to plate up these dishes that not only taste yummy, but are a sight for sore eyes

CHOCOLATE AND STRAWBERRY FLAT BREAD

INGREDIENTS
For flat bread:
- store-bought/ homemade pizza dough

For the toppings
- strawberry sliced: 1 cup
- cream cheese: 5 tbsp
- chocolate cut into sticks: 2 cups
- fresh basil: 5-8 sprigs
- parmesan cheese: ½ cup

METHOD
- Pre-heat the oven to 220 degree Celsius. Place the pizza dough over pizza plate or tray and flatten the dough by stretching with the rolling pin or by both hands into an oval shape. Arrange the chocolate sticks on the bottom ends of the dough. Cover it by pulling the ends and seal it. Put the cream cheese in the middle and spread it evenly. Put the flat bread for baking in the oven at 240 degree Celsius till the sides turn a little brown. Take it out, top with the strawberries, parmesan cheese and sprigs of basil and again put it for baking for about 8-12 minutes. Slice the flatbread and top with ice-cream or balsamic vinegar.

MACERATED STRAWBERRIES WITH VANILLA MASCARPONE AND ROASTED ALMOND ICE-CREAM

INGREDIENTS
For strawberries
- strawberries sliced: 1 cup
- sugar: 4 tbsp
- vanilla essence: 1 tbsp

For the vanilla mascarpone
- Mascarpone: 4 tbsp
- vanilla essence: 1 tbsp
- powdered white sugar: 2 tbsp
- balsamic glaze: 2 tbsp

For the roasted almond ice-cream
ice-cream: 1 tbsp

METHOD
- Stir together strawberries and sugar in a medium bowl and refrigerate for 30 minutes to overnight. To prepare vanilla mascarpone, add the mascarpone, vanilla essence and white sugar in a bowl and whisk it by hand or electric mixer till it becomes aerated or fluffy. For the balsamic glaze, just add one cup of balsamic vinegar to a small pot and bring it to a boil. Then reduce the temperature and simmer for about 10-15 minutes or until the sauce coats the back of the spoon. To assemble it, put the vanilla mascarpone on a plate or a bowl, arrange the macerated strawberries and top it with balsamic glaze and roasted almond ice-cream.

STRAWBERRY SALAD

INGREDIENTS
For macerated strawberry
(Macerated means to soften or sweeten by soaking in a liquid. Fruit can be macerated in a liquid such as balsamic vinegar or liquor but it can also be macerated in sugar. The sugar pulls out the juices of the fruit forming syrup and turns a tasteless berry into a sweet one.)
- strawberries sliced: 1 cup
- sugar: 4 tbsp • vanilla essence: 1 tbsp
- For the beetroot dressing • beetroot boiled: 1 medium • Kasundi mustard: 1 teaspoon • onion, diced: 1 /4 small
- garlic: 4 cloves • honey: 1 tbsp
- salt: ½ tsp • black pepper: ½ tsp
- lemon juice: 1 tsp • extra virgin oil: 4 tbsp

For the salad
- rocket leaves: 1 cup • roasted walnut: 1/2 cup • crumble feta: 1 tbsp
- balsamic vinegar reduction: 2 tbsp

METHOD
- Stir together strawberries and sugar in a medium bowl and refrigerate for 30 minutes to overnight. For the dressing: place all of the ingredients except olive oil into a food processor and puree it. Once the mixture is smooth, start adding the olive oil bit by bit till it becomes thick. For making balsamic vinegar reduction, just add one cup of balsamic vinegar to a small pot and bring it to a boil. Then reduce the temperature and simmer for about 10-15 minutes or until the sauce coats the back of the spoon. To assemble the salad, add the rocket leaves, macerated strawberries, beetroot dressing, and roasted walnut in a medium bowl and toss it gently. Plate on a serving platter and garnish it with crumble feta and balsamic vinegar reduction.

By chefs Tarun Sibal and Chef Shivansh Bhasin, Street Storyss

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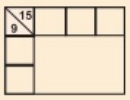
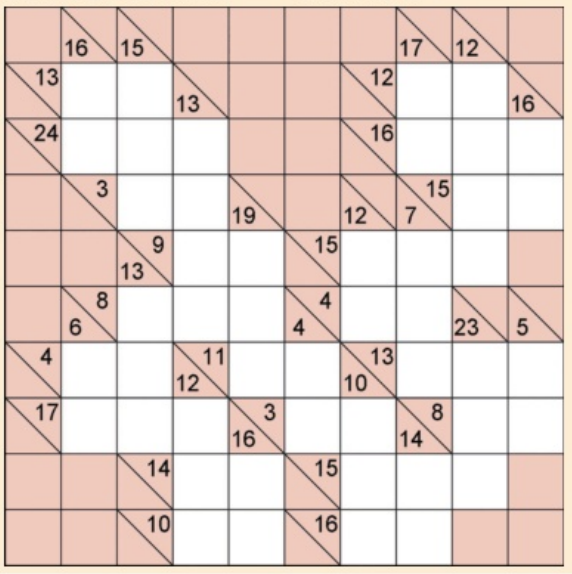
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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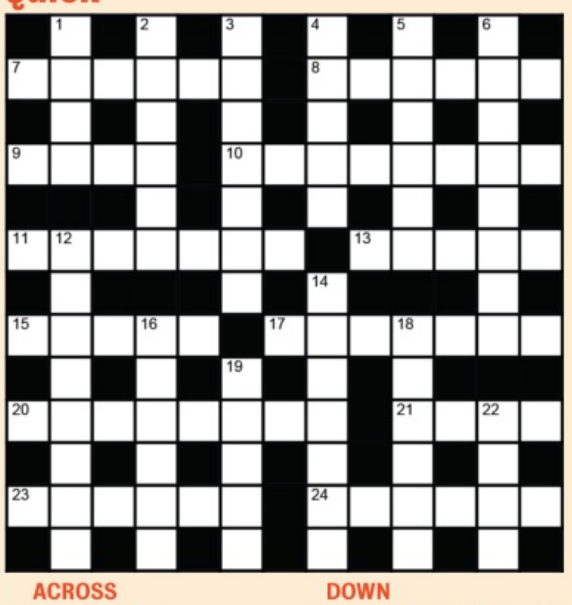


ACROSS

7 Indian snack (6)
8 ___ after : attended to or took care of ? (6)
9 Adriatic port (4)
10 Indian holy city (8)
11 A metal tool for gripping things (7)
13 Thin porridge (5)
15 In pursuit of (5)
17 Italian Mrs (7)
20 Afghanistan's neighbour (8)
21 Chinese secret society (4)
23 Divine beverage (6)
24 Public meetings (6)

DOWN

1 Currency of Bangladesh (4)
2 12 constellations (6)
3 Vary cue anagram for a South Indian river (7)
4 Fierce look (5)
5 Little Jack of nursery rhymes? (6)
6 Male attire? (4,4)
12 Red and sore (8)
14 Portend (7)
16 Decrees (6)
18 Public official (6)
19 Wading bird (5)
22 Alaskan outpost (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS U

RJY NMMQES SXQ KJZWV HR KXNS RJY HZJKFQ.

Linemaro

You're so beautiful I could paint you

Mindchow

Mirrors should think longer before they reflect

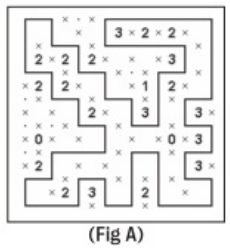
Joke of the day

Confucius says: Man who wants pretty nurse must be patient.

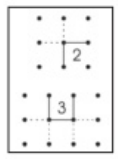
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

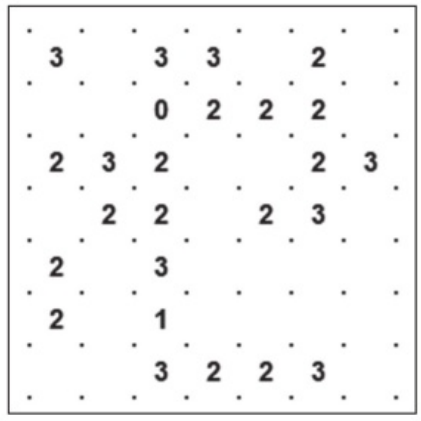


(Fig B) Not Allowed

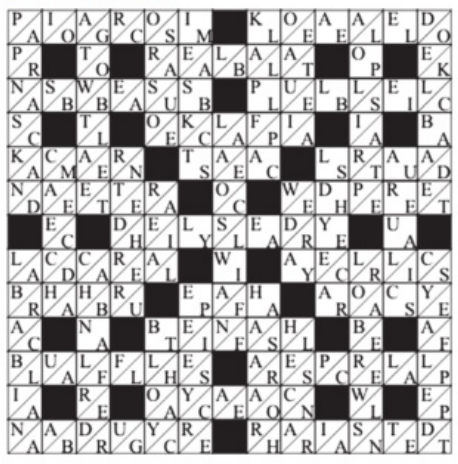
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



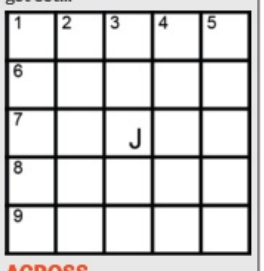
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

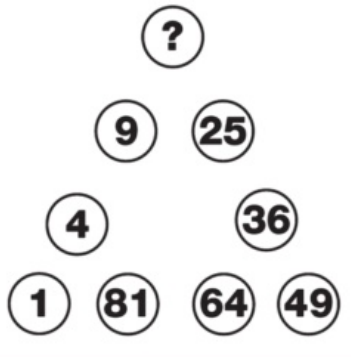
1 Assam; 6 Bacon;
7 Yo Jen; 8 A Argo;
9 Sum an

DOWN

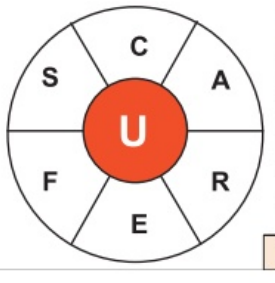
1 Ameba; 2 Gam an;
3 Juno a; 4 Corns;
5 So say

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

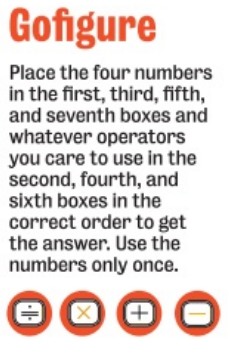
SudokuChallenge

		9	4				8	6
	1		8	3				4
		8			2			3
		5			4			
	7		3		5		6	
			1			5		
6			7			1		
4				2	3		7	
5	3				1	4		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

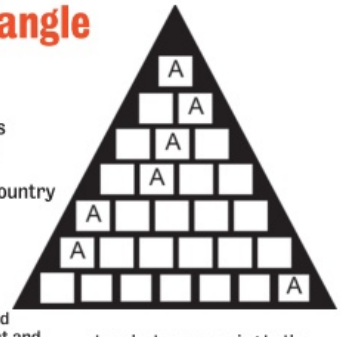
Differences: 1. Wire is missing from cable box. 2. Cushion is thicker. 3. Lampshade is different. 4. TV is not as big. 5. Coat is shorter. 6. There are fewer chips in the bowl.

Riddler

Black as night I can be, Until my Mother sits on me; Then clear as ice I become In the rough, thank you Mum. What am I?

Alpha triangle

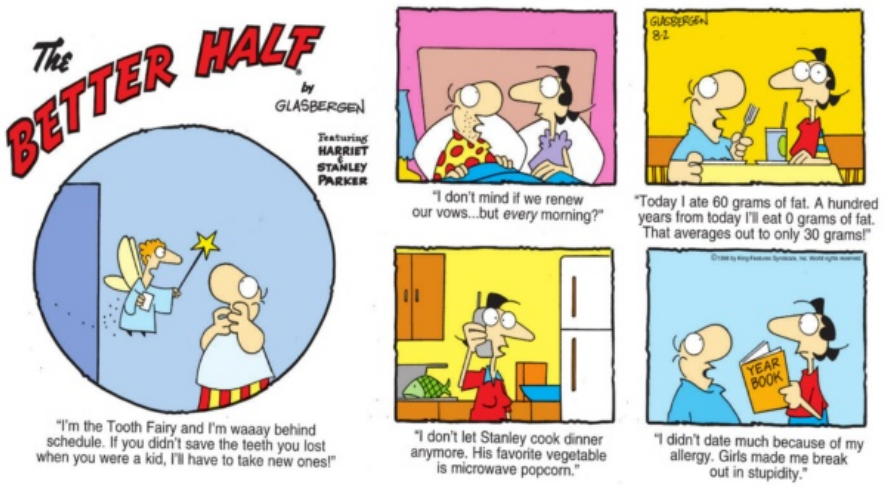
1 First letter
2 Bye!
3 Used a chair
4 Baskers' rewards
5 Female relatives
6 Capital of Texas
7 Mediterranean country

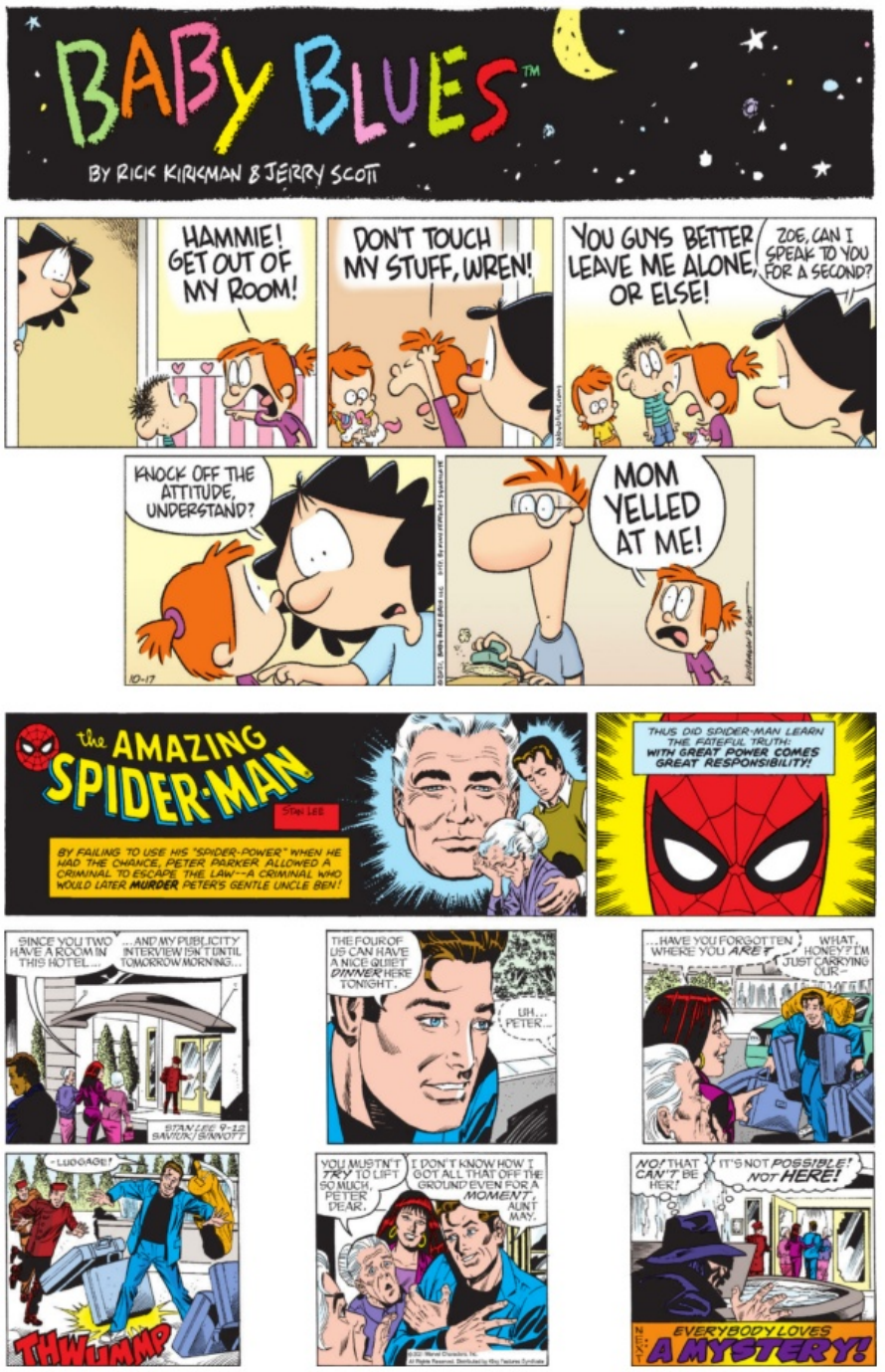


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"I'm the Tooth Fairy and I'm waaay behind schedule. If you didn't save the teeth you lost when you were a kid, I'll have to take new ones!"
"I don't mind if we renew our vows...but every morning?"
GLASBERGEN 8-2
"Today I ate 60 grams of fat. A hundred years from today I'll eat 0 grams of fat. That averages out to only 30 grams!"
"I don't let Stanley cook dinner anymore. His favorite vegetable is microwave popcorn."
YEAR BOOK
"I didn't date much because of my allergy. Girls made me break out in stupidity."


BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
HAMMIE! GET OUT OF MY ROOM!
DON'T TOUCH MY STUFF, WREN!
YOU GUYS BETTER LEAVE ME ALONE, OR ELSE!
ZOE, CAN I SPEAK TO YOU FOR A SECOND?
KNOCK OFF THE ATTITUDE, UNDERSTAND?
MOM YELLED AT ME!
10-17

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
Stan LEE
BY FAILING TO USE HIS "SPIDER-POWER" WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE, PETER PARKER ALLOWED A CRIMINAL TO ESCAPE, THE LAW--A CRIMINAL WHO WOULD LATER MURDER PETER'S GENTLE UNCLE BEN!
THUS DID SPIDER-MAN LEARN THE FATEFUL TRUTH: WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!
SINCE YOU TWO HAVE A ROOM IN THIS HOTEL...
...AND MY PUBLICITY INTERVIEW ISN'T UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING...
STAN LEE 9-13 SAVIOR/SINNOT
THE FOUR OF US CAN HAVE A NICE QUIET DINNER HERE TONIGHT.
UH... PETER...
...HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHERE YOU ARE?
WHAT, HONEY? I'M JUST CARRYING OUR--
-LUGGAGE!
THWUMP
YOU MUSTN'T TRY TO LIFT SO MUCH, PETER DEAR.
I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT ALL THAT OFF THE GROUND! EVEN FOR A MOMENT.
AUNT MAY.
NO! THAT CAN'T BE HER!
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! NOT HERE!
EVERYBODY LOVES A MYSTERY!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be busy at work. Your wisdom may help you to make the right decision for the growth of your business. You are likely to receive a big order, which may help your work. You may utilise your creativity to renovate your home or office, which may improve your social status. You may invest in a creative asset too.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may face all challenges with the help of patience and may enjoy at work. You may plan to go for a short work-related trip, where you may receive help from siblings and colleagues, which will enhance your social network. Job seekers are advised to use their network to get a suitable job.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may have some health-related issues. Lack of sleep may make you come across as arrogant. You are advised to avoid arguments at work and home to avoid messy situations. You may also be attracted by occultism. You may find yourself in a self-analysing state but good karma may help you overcome this messy situation.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some artefacts or creative stuff, which will improve your social status. You may also invest in properties and other assets. You are likely to enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which will boost your emotional bond with your spouse. Singles may find their soulmate. Lovebirds may make some important decisions about marriage.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel happy. Chronic health issues related to family members may not be cured. Money which was stuck, may be recovered now, which may increase liquidity in the business. People who are in jobs may get some incentives which will improve their financial health. Job seekers may get jobs with the help of a relative or friend's reference. Students may take help from their friends in terms of academics.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You are likely to use your creativity to renovate your house or office. Your focus on your goals may be good. Overworking may tire your mind, which may create anxiety, restlessness and stress, which may affect your domestic life. Students are advised to avoid fantasising during studies; make a proper timetable for studies and follow it with the help of will power.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may be impatient, which may reflect in your way of working. There may be some silly mistakes, which may affect your project. Postpone investing in fixed assets for some days. But with the help of destiny, you may overcome a messy situation. In the evening, you may feel focused on your work.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may hear good news from your sibling. You may spend your time with family and friends. With the help of creativity, you may plan to renovate your house or office. You may start new partnerships with family members, which will be beneficial in the near future. Your colleagues may help you in a project.

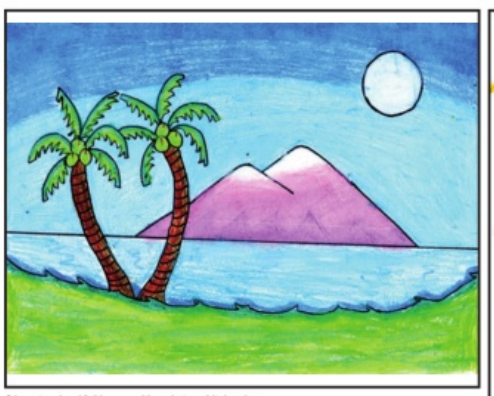
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be blessed by the moon. You may plan to renovate your office or house. You are advised to spend within a budget, otherwise it may affect your savings. Your straightforwardness may affect your relationship with loved ones, so think twice before speaking. You may also have teeth, throat, ear or nose-related issues.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may enjoy happiness and peace of mind. You may work efficiently in your professional life. Your colleagues may cooperate with you to make some important decisions for the business. You may plan to start some new ventures with the help of your siblings and network, which may be beneficial for the growth of business. Take proper rest to maintain your enthusiasm.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may feel a detachment from your responsibilities. You may spend more on worthless stuff, which may boost negativity in your house or office. Keep an eye on your opponents and rivals, or you may become a victim of conspiracy. Read documents carefully before signing them.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may enjoy your domestic and professional life. You may be polite to the people around you, which may help in smooth completion of your work. You may find some new sources of earnings, which may boost your savings. You may also plan to renovate your house or office. Those with jobs may get promoted.

KIDZONE



Ghaniyah, 12 Years, Kendriya Vidyalaya

Emmanuel Gavin Theophil, 7 Years, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(15/14)−1/14
15/14−1/14
15/14−1/14
= 1

RIDDLER
Coal When buried deep in Mother Earth, the high pressure transforms black coal into clear diamonds; a diamond in the rough.

BULL'S EYE
cause, cure, curse, ecru, fuse, ruse, sauce, saucer, sure, surf, user, SURFACE, urea,

FAST FIVE

M	A	U	N	S
A	G	O	R	A
E	N	J	O	Y
B	A	N	C	O
A	M	A	S	S

STRIKE OUT

P	O	G	R	O	M	K	E	E	L	E	D
R	O	R	A	B	A	T	P	E		
A	B	B	E	S	S	P	U	B	L	I	C
S	L	O	K	A	P	I	A	A		
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C	H	I	L	L	A	R	Y	A		
A	C	C	R	A	I	Y	E	L	L	S
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A	M	C	O	I	A	O				
P	A	K	I	S	T	A	N	T	O	N	G
L	D	S	G	O						
A	F	T	E	R	S	I	G	N	O	R	A
N			Y	S						
P	I	N	C	E	R	S	G	R	U	E	L
B	A	R	I	V	A	R	A	N	A	S	I
K	D	U	A	R	N					
S	A	M	O	S	A	L	O	O	K	E	D
N	E	C	T	A	R	F	O	R	U	M	S
D	S	K	Y	E						

QUICK

3	5	9	4	1	7	2	8	6
2	1	6	8	3	9	7	5	4
7	4	8	6	5	2	9	1	3
8	6	5	2	7	4	3	9	1
1	7	4	3	9	5	6	8	2
9	2	3	1	8	6	5	4	7
6	9	2	7	4	8	1	3	5
4	8	1	5	2	3	6	7	9
5	3	7	9	6	1	4	2	8

SUDOKU

MENSA PUZZLE
16. Starting bottom left and moving clockwise around the triangle, numbers follow the sequence of Square Numbers.

QUOTE UNCODE
You affect the world by what you browse.

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, Ta, Sat, Tans, Aunts, Austin, Tunisia.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 − 3 − 6 + 8 = 8
3 − 4 − 3 + 9 = 5
Medium
7 x 7 − 3 − 7 = 39
Hard

LOOP

KAKURO

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Manikandan turns director
Actor and screenwriter Manikandan, whose outstanding performance in 'Jai Bheem' came in for a lot of critical appreciation, has now made his debut as a director with 'Narai Ezhuthum Suyasaritham'

BangaloreMirror | 16
Sunday, January 30, 2022
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

The groom's a businessman

Five actors who married successful businessmen

It is said that when you find the one, you know it. And our Bollywood actos have been no exception to this. While some have ended up marrying their co-stars, some chose sportsmen. And some others picked successful businessmen to spend the rest of their lives together with. With Mouni Roy tying the knot with Dubai-based businessman Suraj Nambiar, we take a look at top B-Town divas who have tied the knot with successful entrepreneurs.

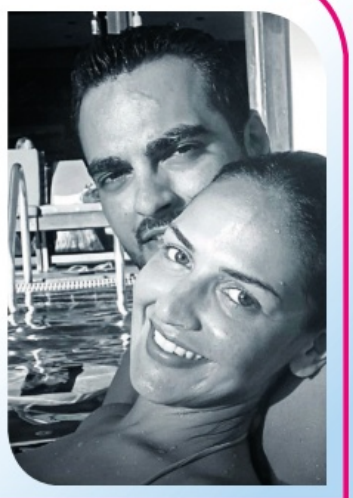
Mouni Roy
Mouni Roy tied the knot with a Dubai-based businessman in a lavish-yet-private ceremony on January 27. The wedding was attended by only their close friends and family members. Mouni had a traditional haldi and mehendi ceremony before tying the knot in two ceremonies, honouring both Malayali and Bengali customs.

Asin
After impressing one and all with her acting prowess in Bollywood and South industry, Asin took the plunge with her longtime boyfriend, Rahul Sharma in 2016. He is the co-founder of a well-known Indian consumer electronics company. The actress has been missing from the silver screen ever since. The couple are parenting their daughter Arin. Asin's friend and co-star Akshay Kumar is believed to have played Cupid between the two.

Sonam Kapoor
Sonam Kapoor broke many hearts when she tied the knot with London-based Indian businessman Anand Ahuja. He is the owner of a top fashion brand. The couple got married in a traditional Sikh ceremony at their Mumbai residence with just close friends and family in attendance. The couple has been happily married for four years.

Shilpa Shetty
Shilpa Shetty fell in love with British-Indian businessman Raj Kundra, who has several successful business ventures. The couple got married on November 22, 2009. They are currently parents to two kids – Viaan and Samisha. Raj was earlier married to Kavita who also reportedly belonged to a business family. They got divorced in 2006.

Esha Deol
Dharmendra and Hema Malini's daughter Esha Deol married her childhood sweetheart and diamond merchant Bharat Takhtani. Although the couple had lost touch with each other for 10 years, they eventually reunited and got married in 2012. They are parents to two adorable daughters, Radhya and Miraya.



Momoa is feeling Fast and Furious?

Hollywood star Jason Momoa is in final negotiations to join the cast of the 10th instalment of "Fast and Furious" franchise.

If finalised, the "Dune" star will join Vin Diesel as well as franchise regulars Sung Kang, Chris 'Ludacris' Bridges, Jordana Brewster, Tyrese Gibson, Nathalie Emmanuel and Michelle Rodriguez, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

Justin Lin, who returned to the franchise with 2021's "F9: The Fast Saga", will direct the 10th and 11th films in the franchise, which will be the conclusion of the core movies.

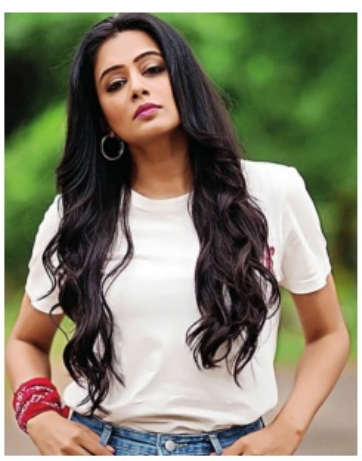
The filmmaker has so far helmed five films in the long-running franchise, beginning with 2006's "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift". Chris Morgan is returning to pen the script. Diesel and Lin are producing the film, which will be released by Hollywood studio Universal on May 19, 2023. The "Fast and Furious" franchise, which began in 2001, has made USD 6.6 bn globally. The figure also includes the earnings of 2019 movie spinoff "Hobbs & Shaw", starring Dwayne Johnson and Jason Statham. —**PTI**

Why Bhumi hopped onboard Badhaai Do

Actor Bhumi Pednekar has revealed why she took the decision to star in 'Badhaai Do'. She says her decision was based on the fact that she gets to sensitively give voice to a subject that will be an eye-opener. Bhumi said: "I'm proud that content filmmakers, making differential and clutter-breaking subjects, feel I can helm a project that is unique and bring their vision to life. "I thrive on pushing myself constantly and my decision to do 'Badhaai Do' was based on the fact that I get to sensitively portray a character and give voice to a subject that will be an eye-opener for India." She said, "'Badhaai Do' is a hot franchise that balances commerce with content. It is really exciting to be an actor in these times because such subjects are being backed by big producers who want to create a change in society.

"As a "human being, I'm drawn to subjects that can lead to a positive impact on people and be a catalyst for social good. I can't wait for people to watch this film because it is truly endearing."

Priyamani dissects the North-South divide



Only a few days ago she heaped praise on Ajay Devgn but it seems National Award-winning actress Priyamani is not impressed with everything about Bollywood. During a recent interview with an entertainment portal, the popular actress claimed that in many Bollywood movies, people from South have been shown as someone who speaks Hindi with a unique accent.

The seasoned actress shared that earlier divas from the south such as Sridevi, Rekha, Hema Malini and Vyjayanthimala used to rule Bollywood but then it all stopped. According to her, the representation of South Indians in Bollywood films became restricted to those who used to not speak Hindi in the normal way, for instance - 'Aiyo, kaisa ji, kya bolta ji'- like that.

However, Priyamani is now happy to see that such kind of a portrayal is changing. According to her, this trend changed when Bollywood started to rope in South technicians and as a result soon South Indian technicians flooded the Hindi film industry and made a name for them quickly.

Now as the southern content is gaining popularity among the Bollywood audience the popular actress says it's great to see South talent getting recognition in Bollywood and South stars are also receiving the love they deserve.

Meanwhile, Priyamani who has a praiseworthy filmography in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada movies will be seen as Ajay Devgn's onscreen wife in Amit Sharma's biographical sports film 'Maidaan'. In the film, based on the golden era of Indian football (1952 - 1962), Ajay plays legendary Indian football coach Syed Abdul Rahim. Down South, she is also waiting for the release of 'Virata Parvam'. —**ETimes**